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UNCLAS HANOI 000004

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL VM CNARC

SUBJECT: GVN PROVIDES INFO, ASKS FOR AID AGAINST
"TERRORIST"

REF: 12/31 ZARING-ADAMS TELCON AND EMAIL

¶1. (SBU) On December 31, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) delivered a written demarche, translated below, to Poloff (who provided it soon after to EAP/BCLTV (ref)). The document recounts the plan of a Vietnamese American group called the Provisional Government of Vietnam (a.k.a the Government of Free Vietnam in Exile), led by Nguyen Huu Chanh, to hold a national convention in Anaheim, California, on January 2, 2005. Included with the demarche were a copy of a brochure for the convention and a registration form. The note points out specifically that, according to the convention brochure, a "representative of the President of the United States" would be an event speaker. Furthermore, in the note, the GVN requests that the USG take steps to "prevent the convention."

¶2. (SBU) Comment: This is the second request we have received from the GVN for assistance with Nguyen Huu Chanh and the Government of Free Vietnam in Exile. Chanh and his group are seen as a serious threat by some in the GVN, and clearly monitored closely. Embassy believes that any information we can provide to the GVN on Chanh and his group would be well received in Hanoi. End Comment.

¶3. Unofficial Embassy translation of December 31, 2004, GVN note:

//Begin Unofficial Translation//

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam greets the Embassy of the United States of America in Hanoi and requests to present the following information:

According to information we have received, Nguyen Huu Chanh and a number of hostile elements plan to organize a so-called "National Convention" on January 2, 2005, in the Anaheim Convention Center, 800 West Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA 92802, in order to reveal the "National Leader" and the "Leadership Committee" of a group called the "Provisional Government of Free Vietnam," and at the same time to create plans against the country of Vietnam. According to the proposed program, a representative of the President of the United States will also participate in this "Convention." (see attached)

Vietnam has many times presented the case of Nguyen Huu Chanh to the Americans. Nguyen Huu Chanh not only has undertaken many terrorist activities against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, but also is being sought by the international office Interpol for the smuggling of arms and terrorism. The issue of Nguyen Huu Chanh and his collaborators, who are planning to organize a "National Convention" and to "establish a Government" on January 2, 2005, on United States territory, is a provocation that cannot be accepted by Vietnam. This activity not only aims at undermining the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam -- an autonomous nation, having diplomatic relations with the United States -- but also aims to divide the ethnic unity that Vietnam is working hard to develop. At the same time this activity goes against the direction of growing positive relations between Vietnam and the United States.

Consequently, Vietnam proposes to the United States to take appropriate measures to prevent Nguyen Huu Chanh and his collaborators from organizing this so called "National Convention" mentioned above as well as other activities of a hostile nature against Vietnam, and at the same time requests that the United States collaborate with Vietnam to arrest Nguyen Huu Chanh and render him to Vietnam for trial.

On this occasion the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam presents its sincere salutations to the Embassy of the United States.

Hanoi, December 31, 2004.

//End Unofficial Translation//

BOARDMAN